currence of the State Government to the plan of operation of the project is awaited.

Assessment of newsprint policy for 1987-88

912. DR. RUDRA PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether any assessment has been made regarding the working of the newsprint policy for 1987-88 and its impact on the economics of the newsprint industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof stating the impact of the policy on the indigenous production of newsprint; and

(c) the rationale behind canalisation of imports of newsprint through the State Trading Corporation and how far it has helped the industry to meet the demand?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) and (b) While no formal study or assessment has been made, the Government has taken note of the various views expressed on this subject.

(c) The objective of canalisation of import of newsprint through the State Trading Corporation is to obtain better terms of trade through bulk purchases. Canalisation also helps in planning for the volume of imports to manage supply of newsprint. Canalisation of newsprint through STC has by and large achieved these objectives. STC has been able to ensure regular supply of newsprint at reasonable prices.

नए राशन कार्ड जारी किया जाना

913. श्री सुनील कुमार पट्टनायक : क्या खाद्य और नागरिक पूर्ति मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि दिल्ली प्रशासन के खाद्य और नागरिक पूर्ति विभाग के मण्डल सं० 43 में न्यू उस्मानपुर तथा जगजीत नगर में नियुक्त खाद्य निरीक्षक नए आवेदकों को राशन कार्ड जारी करने से पहले उनके आवेदनों की जांच उचित दर दुकानों के विक्रेताओं से करवाते हैं जोकि इस संबंध में दिल्ली प्रशासन द्वारा बनाए गए नियमों का उल्लंघन है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या सरकार का इन निरीक्षकों के विरुद्ध कोई कार्यवाही करने का विचार है ; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है ?

खाद्य और नागरिक पूर्ति मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (श्री डी० एल० बैठा : (क) दिल्ली प्रशासन ने इसका खंडन किया है

(ख) और (ग) प्रश्न नहीं उठता ।

Release of funds for NREP and RLEGP

914. SHRI GOPALA RAO, RAO : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to release funds year-wise (every year) for NREP and RLEGP;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh made some recommendations/ suggestions/alterations to NREP and RLEGP;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by Government thereon;

(e) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh have requested to release totally rice under NREP; and

(f) if so, the action taken by Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b) Funds under the National Rural Employment Programme

and Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme are released in two instalments each year. There is no proposal to change this procedure and to release the funds under the programme annually.

(c) and (d) No specific suggestions/ recommendations for modifications to NREP/RLEGP guidelines have been received from Government of Andhra Pradesh in the recent past.

(e) Requests have been received from the State Government for supply of entire quantity of foodgrains in rice.

(f) Due to availability of limited quantity of rice for the programme, it has not been found possible to supply entire quantity of foodgrains to the State in rice.

Estimated Foodrgains production in Andhra Pradesh

915. SHRI GOPALA RAO, RAO : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Government have fixed the food grains production target for the year 1988-89; and

(b) if so, the estimated food grains production in Andhra Pradesh in 1988-89 and other States, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) : (a) Yes, Sir, the Foodgrains production target for 1988-89 has been fixed at 166.57 million tonnes.

(b) It is too early to provide estimates of foodgrains production for 1988-89.

Setting up of new mining units by Private Sector in Andhra Pradesh

916. SHRI GOPALA RAO, RAO: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have allowed the privnte sector to get up new mining units for boosting mineral industry in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to promote and develop the mineral industry in Andhra Pradesh ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR): (a) to (c) Mining lease sanctioned by Government are held by lessees both in the public and private sector in Andhra Pradesh. There are 371 active Mines in Andhra Pradesh, mostly in the private sector. The exploration for minerals in Andhra Pradesh in being carried out by the Geological Survey of India and a special programme for exploration of Tungstan and Phosphorite deposits in the State of Andhra Pradesh is being undertaken by our Exploration Agencies in collaboration with BRGM of France. Similarly, a proposal is under consideration for taking up a programme to locate diamond-bearing placer deposits in Andhra Pradesh in collaboration with BRGM of France. Further, the Government of Andhra Pradesh has reported that, based on the recommendations of a Committee set up by it, action is being taken for preparation of feasibility reports to set up mineral based industrial units which would be viable.

Central assistance to Punjab for flood

917. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:
SHRI N. E. BALARAM :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the losses suffered during the recent flood in Punjab and number of people died on account of flood;

(b) the Central assistance given to the State;

(c) whether authorities in Punjab received any memorandum from the Punjab State Committee of Communist Party of India, Chandigarh; and

(d) if so, the suggestions made therein ?